

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE
COMBINED DISTRICTS



ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR
1941

BY

CLEMENT DUNSCOMBE, M.B. B.CHIR., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1941

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE COMBINED DISTRICTS.

44 CASTLE STREET,
OXFORD.

To the Chairmen and Councillors of the Constituent Authorities.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report for the South Oxfordshire Combined Districts for 1941, which has been compiled in accordance with the requirements of Circular 2314 issued by the Ministry of Health on 26th March, 1941, and Circular 2067 dated 19th July, 1940.

These circulars state that reports are to be confined to essential and urgent matters which have affected public health during the year, especially outbreaks of infectious disease.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

CLEMENT DUNSCOMBE,

Medical Officer of Health.

BICESTER URBAN DISTRICT

GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA, 1941

Area (Acres) 1,679
 Estimate of Resident Population (1941) ~~1,869~~

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	Total	M.	F.		Bicester Urban Dist.	England & Wales
Live Births	78	41	37	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the	18.00	14.20
Legitimate	77	40	37	estimated resi-		
Illegitimate	1	1	—	dent population mid-1941		
Stillbirths	2	1	1	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	25.00	Not available
Deaths	55	19	36	Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average popula- tion	12.50	12.90

The chief causes of death were :—
 Heart Disease, 13 ; Cancer, 11 ; Intra-
 cranial vascular lesions, 13 ; Pneumonia,
 Bronchitis & other Respiratory Dis-
 eases, 4 ; Tuberculosis, 2.

Deaths from puerperal causes (Head-
 ings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-
 General's List) :—

<i>Deaths</i>					
No. 29.	Puerperal Sepsis	...	Nil	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	Nil
No. 30.	Other Puerperal causes		Nil		1.75
	Total	...	...		2.23

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	22	59
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...			22	
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...			Nil	
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	11	
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...		Nil	
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	...			Nil	

It will be noted that the general Death Rate is somewhat less, and the Infant Mortality Rate considerably less, than for England and Wales as a whole.

BICESTER URBAN DISTRICT

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Public Health Staff

Consists of the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector, who is also Surveyor and superintends the Waterworks, Sewage Disposal Works, Markets, etc.

Fever Hospital Accommodation

Cases are admitted to the Bicester and Ploughley Infectious Diseases Hospital, which is situated in the Urban District. On the recommendation of the Medical Officer of Health certain cases are also admitted, when necessary, to the City of Oxford Infectious Diseases Hospital at The Slade.

Bacteriological Laboratory Work (including Water Examination)

This work is now carried out by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, South Parks Road, Oxford, under the supervision of Professor G. S. Wilson.

Ambulance Services

(1) For accident and non-infectious cases a motor ambulance has been provided for the Town and District.

(2) For infectious cases a motor ambulance is stationed at the Infectious Diseases Hospital and serves both the Urban District of Bicester and the Rural District of Ploughley.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

<i>Diseases</i>	<i>No. of Cases Notified</i>				<i>Admitted to Hospital</i>			
Scarlet Fever	6	...	...	...	6	
Diphtheria	2	...	...	...	2	
Erysipelas	—	—	
Whooping Cough	7	...	...	...	—
Measles	15	...	...	...	—
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	—	—	
Pneumonia	1	...	...	...	1	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	...	...	...	...	—

Scarlet Fever. Six patients were notified, and all were treated in Hospital. There were no deaths from this disease.

Diphtheria. Only two patients were notified. Both were admitted to Hospital, and both recovered.

No deaths occurred during the year from Measles, Whooping Cough, Diarrhoea or other Zymotic Diseases.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The number of children in the District who have been protected against Diphtheria is shown in the following Table :—

Estimated School Population	...	667
Number immunised	...	615
Percentage ...	...	88
Estimated population under 5	...	410
Number immunised	...	316
Percentage ...	...	77

HENLEY-ON-THAMES MUNICIPAL BOROUGH

GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA, 1941

Area (Acres) 1,382

Estimate of Resident Population (1941) ~~22,000~~

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	Total	M.	F.		Henley Borough	England & Wales
Live Births	101	51	50	Birth Rate per 1,000 resident population mid-1941	10.0	14.2
Legitimate	89	48	41			
Illegitimate	12	3	9			
Stillbirths	6	3	3	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	56	Not available
Deaths	110	49	61	Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average popula- tion	10.9	12.9

The chief causes of death were :—
Heart Disease, 26 ; Cancer, 14 ; Intra-
cranial Vascular Lesions, 19 ; Tuber-
culosis, 2 ; Bronchitis, Pneumonia and
other Respiratory Diseases, 14.

Deaths from puerperal causes (Head-
ings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-
General's Short List) :—

<i>Deaths</i>					
No. 29.	Puerperal Sepsis	...	Nil	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	Nil
No. 30.	Other Puerperal causes		Nil		1.75
	Total	...	Nil		2.23

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	27	59
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...			20	
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...			83	
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	14	
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...		Nil	
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...		Nil	

It will be noted that both the general Death Rate and the Infant Mortality Rate are considerably lower than those for England and Wales as a whole.

HENLEY-ON-THAMES MUNICIPAL BOROUGH

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Hospitals

(a) FEVER. Cases of infectious disease are admitted by arrangement to the "Smith" Isolation Hospital which is situated within the Borough.

(b) SMALLPOX. The Borough Council is one of the constituent authorities of the South Chilterns Joint Smallpox Hospital Board.

(c) The Henley and District War Memorial Hospital is now within the extended Borough boundary. It is a well-equipped Hospital with X-ray and operating theatre.

Ambulance Facilities

(a) There is a motor-trailer ambulance at the Smith Hospital for infectious diseases.

(b) For non-infectious cases there is a motor ambulance in the town.

Public Health Staff

Consists of the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector, who is also Borough Surveyor and has supervision of the Council's employees at the Sewage Pumping Station and disposal works and cleansing department.

Bacteriological and Laboratory Work

This work is now carried out by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, South Parks Road, Oxford, under the supervision of Professor G. S. Wilson.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING 1941

<i>Diseases</i>	<i>No. of Cases notified</i>				<i>Admitted to Hospital</i>			
Scarlet Fever	8	...	...	...	8	
Diphtheria	1	...	...	...	1	
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	—	—	
Measles	19	...	...	...	—
Whooping Cough	12	...	...	...	—
Erysipelas	3	...	...	...	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	2	...	...	...	...	2	
Pneumonia	5	...	...	...	...	1	

Scarlet Fever. Eight patients were notified and were treated in Hospital. There were no deaths from this disease.

Diphtheria. Only one case of this disease was notified during the year, and the patient recovered in Hospital.

Cerebro-spinal Meningitis. Two cases of this disease received treatment at the Royal Berks Hospital, Reading, and they both recovered.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The number of children who have been protected against Diphtheria by two immunising doses of Toxoid Antitoxin is shown in the following table :—

Estimated number of School Children	1287
Number immunised	1084
Percentage	84
Estimated number of children under 5 yrs.	475
Number immunised	188
Percentage	42

THAME URBAN DISTRICT

GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA, 1941

Area (Acres) 3,140

Estimate of Resident Population (1941) ~~1573~~

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	Total	M.	F.		Thame Urban District	England & Wales
Live Births	47	23	24	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	11.3	14.2
Legitimate	43	21	22			
Illegitimate	4	2	2			
Stillbirths	1	—	1	Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	21	Not available
Deaths	46	18	28	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	11.0	12.9

The chief causes of death were :—
Intracranial Vascular Leisions, 11 ;
Cancer, 10; Pneumonia, Bronchitis and
other respiratory diseases, 9 ; Heart
Disease, 6.

Deaths from Puerperal causes (Head-
ings 29 and 30 of the Registrar
General's List) :—

	<i>Deaths</i>					
No. 29. Puerperal Sepsis ...	Nil			Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)	Nil	0.48
No. 30. Other Puerperal causes	Nil				Nil	1.75
Total	Nil				Nil	2.23

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	59	59
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	42	
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	250	
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	10	
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil	
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)...	Nil	

THAME URBAN DISTRICT

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Fever Hospital Accommodation

Cases of notifiable Infectious Diseases are admitted by arrangement either to the Bullingdon and Wallingford Joint Isolation Hospital or to the Abingdon Isolation Hospital.

Bacteriological Laboratory Work

This is now carried out by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, South Parks Road, Oxford. under the direction of Professor G. S. Wilson.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1941

<i>Diseases</i>	<i>No. of Cases Notified</i>				<i>Admitted to Hospital</i>		
Scarlet Fever	7	...	...	...	5
Diphtheria	—	—
Measles	135	...	...	...	—
Whooping Cough	19	...	...	...	—
Erysipelas	2	...	...	...	1
Smallpox	—	—
Pneumonia	5	...	...	...	1
Typhoid	—	—
Paratyphoid	1	...	...	...	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	...	...	...	—

Scarlet Fever. The 7 cases were of a mild type and all made a good recovery.

Measles. There were no deaths out of the 135 notified cases of this disease.

Whooping Cough. 19 cases were notified, all of whom recovered.

Typhoid Fever. No cases were reported during the year.

Paratyphoid. One non-civilian case of Paratyphoid "B" was notified.

Acute Anti-Poliomyelitis. One case of this disease was notified ; the patient was nursed at home and recovered.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The number of children who have been protected against Diphtheria by two immunising doses of Toxoid Antitoxin is shewn in the following table :—

Estimated number of School Children ...	580
Number immunised ...	519
Percentage ...	89
Estimated number of children under 5 yrs.	213
Number immunised ...	75
Percentage ...	35

The general health of the District may be considered to have been satisfactory during the year. Apart from Measles, the incidence of zymotic diseases was low.

BULLINGDON RURAL DISTRICT

GENERAL STATISTICS FOR THE AREA, 1941

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

Area (Acres)				90,643		
Estimate of Resident Population (1941)				82,410		
	Total	M.	F.		Bullingdon Rural Dist.	England & Wales
Live Births	497	251	246	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	15.30	14.20
Legitimate	475	240	235			
Illegitimate	22	11	11			
Stillbirths	8	4	4	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	16	Not available
Deaths	324	174	150	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	10.00	12.90

The chief causes of death were :—
Heart Disease, 72 ; Cancer, 56 ; Intracranial Vascular Lesions, 26 ; Bronchitis, 2 ; Pneumonia, 16 ; Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 19 ; Nephritis, 7 ; Influenza, 6.

Deaths from Puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's List) :—

				<i>Deaths</i>		
No. 29.	Puerperal Sepsis	...	Nil	Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	Nil	0.48
No. 30.	Other Puerperal causes		Nil		Nil	1.75
	Total ...	...	Nil		Nil	2.23

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	48.3	59
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...				50.5	
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...				Nil	
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	56	
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	2	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...			...	2	
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...			...	1	

It will be noted that the general Death Rate and both the Maternal Mortality and the Infant Mortality Rates compare very favourably with those of England and Wales as a whole.

BULLINGDON RURAL DISTRICT

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Fever Hospital

Cases are admitted for treatment at the Bullingdon and Wallingford Joint Isolation Hospital at Wallingford. There is a motor ambulance for infectious cases at this Hospital.

Bacteriological Laboratory Work

(including Water Examination) is now carried out by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, South Parks Road, Oxford, under the supervision of Professor G. S. Wilson.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

<i>Diseases</i>	<i>No. of Cases Notified</i>				<i>Admitted to Hospital</i>		
Scarlet Fever	43	...	...	...	37
Diphtheria	12	...	...	...	12
Pneumonia	10	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas	4	...	...	...	1
Measles	493	...	...	...	2
Whooping Cough	236	...	...	...	4
Cerebro-spinal Fever	11	...	...	...	11
Typhoid	1	...	...	...	1
Paratyphoid	1	...	...	...	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	6	...	...	...	6

Scarlet Fever. Out of 43 notified cases there were no deaths. The majority of the cases were of a mild type, and a large number—18—occurred in the parish of Littlemore. Three of the patients were children from the Rycote Park Hospital.

Diphtheria. Among the 12 notified cases, all of whom were removed to Hospital there were no deaths. As a general rule, the disease took a mild form.

Measles. As in other parts of the country measles was very prevalent during the year. 493 patients were notified, and death occurred in two complicated cases.

Whooping Cough. This disease was also prevalent. There were two deaths out of 236 notified cases.

Cerebro-spinal Meningitis. 11 cases were notified, all of which received attention in Hospital. There were three deaths.

Acute Poliomyelitis. 6 cases were notified, all of which were treated in Hospital. There were no deaths.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The number of children in the Bullingdon District who have now been protected against Diphtheria by the injection of two immunising doses of Toxoid Antitoxin is shown in the following table:—

Estimated School Population	...	...	3,200
Number immunised ...	...	...	2,792
Percentage ...	...	...	87
Estimated Population under 5 years	...	...	1,582
Number immunised ...	...	...	1,001
Percentage ...	...	...	63

HENLEY RURAL DISTRICT

GENERAL STATISTICS, 1941

Area (Acres) 52,297
 Estimate of Resident Population (1941) ~~52,297~~

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	Total	M.	F.		Henley Rural District	England & Wales
Live Births	218	122	96	Birth Rate per 1,000 resident population mid-1941	9.80	14.20
Legitimate	201	114	87			
Illegitimate	17	8	9			
Stillbirths	5	2	3	Rate per 1,000 total (live and (still) births	22.40	Not available
Deaths	201	110	91	Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average population	9.00	12.90

The chief causes of death were ;—
 Heart Disease, 47 ; Cancer, 28 ; Intracranial Vascular Lesions, 30 ; Bronchitis, 15 ; Diabetes, 4 ; Pneumonia, 11 ; Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 6.

Deaths from Puerperal causes Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's List :—

<i>Deaths</i>						
No. 29.	Puerperal Sepsis	...	Nil	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	Nil	0.48
No. 30.	Other Puerperal causes		1		4.50	1.75
	Total ..	...	1		4.50	2.23

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	30.30	59
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	33	
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil	
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	28	
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	1	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil	
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age) ...	Nil	

It will be noted that both the general Death Rate and the Infant Mortality Rate compare favourably with those for England and Wales as a whole.

HENLEY RURAL DISTRICT

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Fever Hospital

The "Smith" Isolation Hospital is now situated within the Borough of Henley. It also serves the R.D. of Hambleden (Bucks), and cases can be admitted from the Borough of Henley.

Bacteriological Laboratory Work

This is carried out by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, South Parks Road, Oxford, under the direction of Professor G. S. Wilson.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

<i>Diseases</i>	<i>No. of Cases Notified</i>				<i>Admitted to Hospital</i>		
Scarlet Fever	40	...	...	...	36
Whooping Cough	67	...	...	...	—
Diphtheria	8	...	...	...	8
Erysipelas	7	...	...	...	—
Smallpox	—	—
Measles	381	...	...	...	—
Pneumonia	14	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	...	...	...	1
Typhoid	—	—
Paratyphoid	1	...	...	...	1
Dysentery (Sonné)	1	...	...	...	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	8	...	...	...	8

Scarlet Fever. Amongst 40 notified cases of this disease there was one death, which occurred shortly after admission to Hospital. The majority of the cases were of a mild type. A number of them occurred at the Royal Deaf and Dumb School at Goring.

Measles. One death occurred out of the 381 notified cases of this disease, which, during the early part of this year, was very prevalent both in the Rural District and throughout the County.

Whooping Cough. There were no deaths from this disease out of 67 notified cases.

Diphtheria. No serious outbreak occurred, and only 8 isolated cases were notified.

Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis. 8 cases of this disease were notified and were treated chiefly at the Royal Berks Hospital or the Battle Hospital, Reading.

Typhoid Fever. No cases were reported during the year.

Paratyphoid. One case of Paratyphoid "B" was notified: the patient recovered.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Diphtheria Immunisation was carried out in the Rural District by a temporary Assistant Medical Officer appointed by the County Council for this purpose. The number of children who have been protected against Diphtheria by two immunising doses of Toxoid Antitoxin is shown in the following table:—

Estimated number of School Children ...	2,200
Number immunised ...	1,617
Percentage ...	73
Estimated number of children under 5 years	989
Number immunised ...	616
Percentage ...	63

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—There is nothing of special interest to report with reference to these diseases. Measles and Whooping Cough are now notifiable, and complicated cases of these and other minor infectious diseases can be treated at the Smith Hospital at Henley under special circumstances.

The general health of the District may be considered to have been satisfactory during the year. Apart from Measles and Whooping Cough, the incidence of zymotic diseases was low.

The general Death Rate at 9.0 per 1,000 and the Infant Mortality Rate at 30.3 per 1,000 compare very favourably with Rates for England and Wales (12.9 and 59 per 1,000 respectively).

PLOUGHLEY RURAL DISTRICT

GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA, 1941

Area (Acres) 79,911
 Estimate of Resident Population (1941) ~~77,490~~

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	Total	M.	F.		Ploughley Rural Dist.	England & Wales
Live Births	229	120	109	Birth Rate per 1,000 resident population mid-1941	13.40	14.20
Legitimate	218	115	103			
Illegitimate	11	5	6			
Stillbirths	10	6	4	Rate per 1,000 total (live and	42.00	Not available
Deaths	151	90	61	Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average population	9.00	12.90

The chief causes of death were :—
 Heart Disease, 32 ; Intracranial Lesions, 29 ; Cancer, 14 ; Pneumonia, Bronchitis and other respiratory Diseases, 15 ; Nephritis, 5 ; Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 3 ; Diabetes, 2.

Deaths from Puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's List) :—

	<i>Deaths</i>					
No. 29. Puerperal Sepsis	...	Nil		Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	Nil	0.48
No. 30. Other Puerperal causes		Nil			Nil	1.75
Total	Nil		Nil	2.23

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	71	59
Legitimate per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	66	
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	182	
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	14	
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	2	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	3	
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	Nil	

PLOUGHLEY RURAL DISTRICT

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Fever Hospital Accommodation

Cases are admitted to the Isolation Hospital, which is situated within the Bicester Urban District. On the recommendation of the Medical Officer of Health certain patients are, when necessary, admitted to the City of Oxford Infectious Diseases Hospital in The Slade. A motor Ambulance is stationed at the Hospital, and serves both the Rural District and the Urban District of Bicester.

Bacteriological Laboratory Work

Is now carried out by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, South Parks Road, Oxford, under the direction of Professor G. S. Wilson. The Laboratory also undertakes the bacteriological examination of water supplies.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1941

<i>Diseases</i>	<i>No. of Cases Notified</i>				<i>Admitted to Hospital</i>		
Scarlet Fever	57	...	...	...	49
Diphtheria	—	—
Measles	238	...	...	...	—
Whooping Cough	52	...	...	...	—
Pneumonia	7	...	...	...	—
Typhoid	1	...	...	...	1
Paratyphoid	1	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	...	...	...	1

Scarlet Fever. There were 57 notified cases of this disease, of whom 49 received Hospital treatment, the remainder being isolated at home. There were no deaths, and the majority of the cases were of a mild type.

Diphtheria. No cases of this among civilians were notified during the year.

Measles. As in other parts of the country, measles was very prevalent during the year, 238 cases (with two deaths) being notified.

Whooping Cough. This disease also was prevalent during the year, and 52 cases notified.

Pneumonia. Seven cases were notified during the year.

Typhoid and Paratyphoid. Two cases (one of each disease) were notified : both received Hospital treatment and recovered.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The number of children in the District who have been protected against Diphtheria is shown in the following table :—

Estimated School Population	...	...	2,205
Number immunised ...	...	...	1,432
Percentage ...	...	...	65
Estimated Population under 5 years	...	...	961
Number immunised...	...	...	299
Percentage ...	...	...	31

